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B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously amended) A method of providing a third party logging proxy server, said method comprising:
assigning one or more product identifiers to digital works received from one or more providers, each product identifier corresponding to one of the digital works;
storing the received digital works on a nonvolatile storage device accessible from the third party logging server;
receiving, over a computer network, a product sale identifier from a merchant computer, the product sale identifier corresponding with one of the digital works;
transmitting the requested digital work from the third party logging server to the merchant computer through the computer network; and
storing a sales record in response to receiving the product sale identifier.
2. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
receiving a royalty rate corresponding with at least one of the product identifiers from one of the providers;
wherein the storing further includes:
calculating an account balance for the merchant.
3. (Original) The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:
receiving a payment from the merchant in response to receiving the product sale identifier,

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wherein the payment is calculated based on the received
royalty rate corresponding to the product sale
identifier.

4. (Original) The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:
calculating an account balance for the provider
corresponding with the identified product identifier.
5. (Original) The method as described in claim 4 further comprising:
transferring funds corresponding to the provider's account
balance to the provider; and
modifying the provider's account balance in response to the
transferring.
6. (Original) The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:
receiving a payment from the merchant corresponding to the
merchant's account balance; and
modifying the merchant's account balance in response to
receiving the payment.
7. (Previously cancelled)
8. (Currently amended) The method as described in claim 7 1
further comprising:
receiving one or more royalty rates from the providers
corresponding to the digital works; and
providing the royalty rates to the merchant.
9. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:

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registering each provider with the third party logging proxy server prior to the obtaining; and providing each provider with an access mechanism in response to the registering.

10. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
registering the merchant with the third party logging proxy server prior to the receiving; and
providing the merchant with an access mechanism in response to the registering.
11. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
receiving a merchant inquiry from one of the providers;
searching a data store in response to the inquiry;
preparing a search result in response to the searching; and
returning the search result to the provider.
12. (Original) The method as described in claim 11 wherein the search result includes whether one or more merchants are registered with the third party logging proxy server.
13. (Previously amended) An information handling system comprising:
one or more processors;
a memory accessible by the processors;
a network interface connecting the information handling system to a computer network;
a nonvolatile storage device accessible by the processors;
and
a logging tool, the logging tool including:

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means for assigning one or more product identifiers to digital works received from one or more providers, each product identifier corresponding to one of the digital works;

means for storing the received digital works on the nonvolatile storage device;

means for receiving, over the computer network, a product sale identifier from a merchant computer, the product sale identifier corresponding with one of the digital works;

means for transmitting the requested digital work from the third party logging server to the merchant computer through the computer network; and

means for storing a sales record in response to receiving the product sale identifier.

14. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 13 further comprising:

means for receiving a royalty rate corresponding with at least one of the product identifiers from one of the provider computers;

wherein the means for storing further includes:

means for calculating an account balance for the merchant corresponding to the merchant computer.

15. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 14 further comprising:

means for receiving a payment from the merchant in response to receiving the product sale identifier,

wherein the payment is calculated based on the received royalty rate corresponding to the product sale identifier.

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16. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 14 further comprising:
means for calculating an account balance for the provider
corresponding with the identified product identifier.
17. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 16 further comprising:
means for transferring funds corresponding to the
provider's account balance to the provider; and
means for modifying the provider's account balance in
response to the transferring.
18. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 14 further comprising:
means for receiving a payment from the merchant
corresponding to the merchant's account balance; and
means for modifying the merchant's account balance in
response to receiving the payment.
19. (Previously cancelled)
20. (Currently amended) The information handling system as described in claim ~~19~~ 13 further comprising:
means for receiving one or more royalty rates from the
providers corresponding to the digital works; and
means for providing the royalty rates to the merchant.
21. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 13 further comprising:
means for registering each provider computer with the third
party logging proxy server prior to the means for
obtaining; and

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means for providing each provider computer with an access mechanism in response to the registering.

22. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 13 further comprising:

means for registering the merchant computer with the third party logging proxy server prior to the means for receiving; and

means for providing the merchant computer with an access mechanism in response to the registering.

23. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 13 further comprising:

means for receiving a merchant inquiry from one of the provider computers;

means for searching the nonvolatile storage device in response to the inquiry;

means for preparing a search result in response to the searching; and

means for returning the search result to the provider computer.

24. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 23 wherein the search result includes whether one or more merchants are registered with the third party logging proxy server.

25. (Previously amended) A computer program product for providing a third party logging proxy server, said computer program product comprising:

means for assigning one or more product identifiers to digital works received from one or more providers,

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- each product identifier corresponding to one of the digital works;
- means for storing the received digital works on the nonvolatile storage device;
- means for receiving, over a computer network, a product sale identifier from a merchant computer, the product sale identifier corresponding with one of the digital works;
- means for transmitting the requested digital work from the third party logging server to the merchant computer through the computer network; and
- means for storing a sales record in response to receiving the product sale identifier.
26. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 25 further comprising:
- means for receiving a royalty rate corresponding with at least one of the product identifiers from one of the providers;
- wherein the means for storing further includes:
- means for calculating an account balance for the merchant.
27. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 26 further comprising:
- means for receiving a payment from the merchant in response to receiving the product sale identifier,
- wherein the payment is calculated based on the received royalty rate corresponding to the product sale identifier.

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28. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 26 further comprising:
means for calculating an account balance for the provider corresponding with the identified product identifier.
29. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 25 further comprising:
means for transferring funds corresponding to the provider's account balance to the provider; and
means for modifying the provider's account balance in response to the transferring.
30. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 26 further comprising:
means for receiving a payment from the merchant corresponding to the merchant's account balance; and
means for modifying the merchant's account balance in response to receiving the payment.
31. (Previously cancelled)
32. (Currently amended) The computer program product as described in claim 25 ~~31~~ further comprising:
means for receiving one or more royalty rates from the providers corresponding to the digital works; and
means for providing the royalty rates to the merchant.
33. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 25 further comprising:
means for registering each provider with the third party logging proxy server prior to the obtaining; and
means for providing each provider with an access mechanism in response to the registering.

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34. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 25 further comprising:
means for registering the merchant with the third party logging proxy server prior to the receiving; and
means for providing the merchant with an access mechanism in response to the registering.
35. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 25 further comprising:
means for receiving a merchant inquiry from one of the providers;
means for searching a data store in response to the inquiry;
means for preparing a search result in response to the searching; and
means for returning the search result to the provider.
36. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 35 wherein the search result includes whether one or more merchants are registered with the third party logging proxy server.